

Please amend the claims as follows:

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9. (Amended) A method of assembling a heat exchanger core comprising steps

of:

guiding fins along a horizontal guide surface formed in a base member;

guiding both ends of tubes and insertion sections of reinforcement members into tube guides which are provided on opposite sides of the base member while arranging alternately the fins and the tubes such that the tubes are at a spaced distance from the horizontal guide surface;

placing the reinforcement members at either end in the direction of arrangement of the fins and the tubes to thereby constitute a core section; and

attaching header members to opposite sides of the core section.

Please add the following new claim:

21. (NEW) The heat exchanger core of claim 1, wherein said reinforcement member comprises a reinforcing section having a C-shaped cross section, wherein said reinforcing section faces in a direction away from said tubes and corrugated fins.